



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES
TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET**

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Dr. Jonathan W. Gassett
Commissioner

TO: Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Darin K. Moore, Director, Administrative Services Division
DATE: May 6, 2011
RE: Summary Update on Third Quarter Strategic Plan Progress: FY 2011

Since adoption of the KDFWR Strategic Plan FY 2008-2012, the Department has made noticeable strides and progress on a number of strategic and operational objectives. To date, more than 60% of the 86 original operational objectives have been accomplished; whereas KDFWR continues to achieve success on many of the revised objectives, which had their target in a sense "moved up" so that the department would continue reaching toward our primary goals.

Many of these objectives, such as stream mitigation, forestland habitat, National Fish Habitat Initiatives, annual public meetings and attendance at KLS Federation Meetings, and public access agreements require KDFWR to achieve a specific level each year. For these, KDFWR has been successful incorporating such achievements as a new standard operating practice.

The department continues to develop strategies and action plans to help realize our operational objectives, which include original, revised and annual-target objectives. The department is preparing for the next step in our planning process, which will include a re-evaluation of our strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats, and subsequently a re-formulated Strategic Plan for the next five years.

Listed below is a summary of the department's efforts toward achieving specific operational objectives during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011. Additional reports can continue to be found on KDFWR's website at <https://fw.ky.gov>.

Operational Objective	Past Achievements	3rd Qtr FY 2011 Progress
1.1.b. Submit a minimum of one project per year for the National Fish Habitat Initiative by the end.	Over the past three years, KDFWR submitted for funding from the National Fish Habitat Initiative projects at Buck Creek in Pulaski County, the Green River Wildlife Mgmt Area, and the Trammel Creek fish passage.	In FY 2011, the department submitted for the National Fish Habitat Initiative (through the Ohio River Foundation) the Slate Creek project in Bath County.
1.1.e. Expand stream restoration projects by 43,000 linear feet per year and locate at least two land acquisition projects under the FILO program.	Over the past three years, the department has achieved three different land acquisition projects through the FILO program and more than 400,000 linear feet in stream restoration.	Thus far in FY 2011, there has been 147,146 linear feet approved by FILO Interagency (Mitigation) Review Team (IRT). Additionally, four land acquisition projects are being investigated by FILO in this period, which are located in Pulaski, Carter, Scott, and Floyd Counties.
1.2.b. Develop 5-year habitat improvement plans for all KDFWR Wildlife Management Areas and begin implementation.	During FY 2010, Plans were developed, including for Clay WMA, Sloughs WMA, Green River WMA, Redbird WMA, Burchell-Beech Creek WMA, Paul Van Booven and Peabody WMA.	This past quarter, the Wildlife Division continued work on WMA plan drafts and finalization of tables and level of reporting. Staff is also working on the database side to be incorporated into both public and private lands efforts. Ultimately, biologists will be capable of entering planned and completed work into this database, which will allow one stop reporting and record keeping for implementation of our wildlife management efforts.
1.2.c. To improve 5,000 acres of forestland habitat annually.	Since adoption of the Strategic Plan, the department has worked to improve and enhance over 25,000 acres of forestland habitat, which is up from 13,000 acres in just 2008.	This past quarter in FY 2011, Wildlife staff reported 2,000 acres of forest inventory, 250 acres impacted by prescribed fire, 120 acres marked for treatment, 10 acres earmarked for midstory removal, and 60 acres designed for tree/shrub planting.
1.4.c. To develop and implement prevention and response plans for targeted fish and wildlife disease.	During FY 2008, the department developed a Contingency Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and posted information concerning the plan on our web site (fw.ky.gov). Since then, Wildlife Diversity staff worked on developing a prevention/response plan for White-nose syndrome; whereas Fisheries staff helped win approval of the Fish Transportation regulation (301 KAR 1:125) that regulates movement of VHS susceptible fish from VHS positive states.	This past quarter, KDFWR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) detected the presence of white-nose syndrome in a bat residing in Trigg County. Anticipating the arrival of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in Kentucky, biologists have taken exhaustive measures to limit its spread. This included the strategic accomplishment of Kentucky being the first state to develop a response plan to address WNS both before and after its arrival in the state.

<p>1.5.c. To develop fish management plans for all major public waters.</p>	<p>Since adoption of the Strategic Plan, fish management plans have either been completed or near completion for all major public waters, include the Phase 1 Statewide Trout Management Plan. Overall, this represents 30 different management plans.</p>	<p>This past quarter of FY 2011, the department began efforts to renovate Beaver Lake in Anderson County, which included the removal of invasive curly-leaf pondweed and overpopulated largemouth bass. The purpose of these efforts was to jumpstart the growth of largemouth bass and to help bluegill populations at the lake. The excess fish were transported for restocking at Guist Creek Lake in Shelby County and Boltz Lake in Grant County. This effort is part of Fisheries Division's active management plan to more rapidly improve fishing in the lake, which included the opportunity for local anglers and residents participating in a public meeting about the new management plan.</p>
<p>2.1.c. To increase the number of wildlife viewing sites by 3 sites per year</p>	<p>In previous years, the department completed a new map of all wildlife viewing sites throughout the Commonwealth, presented at symposiums and conferences to promote wildlife viewing and tourism in Kentucky, and hosted wildlife photographers at Salato Education Center as part of a beginner-level photography workshop. The past three years has also allowed KDFWR to dedicate its newest elk viewing area: the Will Marshall Elk Viewing Area located at the Paul Van Booven Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near the Breathitt-Perry County line. More recently in FY 2010, KDFWR promoted wildlife watching by allowing researchers and wildlife enthusiasts to go online and track movements of two bald eagles hatched in Kentucky.</p>	<p>This past quarter of FY 2011, a pair of peregrine falcons that took up residence at a lime manufacturing plant on the Ohio River in Pendleton County has a new place to nest this spring. Department employees built the new nesting box, and Plant employees installed the box in an isolated area about 120 feet off the ground. Bird watchers also got the opportunity in February to participate in the 14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count at the Salato Wildlife Education Center.</p>

<p>3.4.b. To hold at least five regional public meetings annually.</p>	<p>For the last three fiscal years, the Department held a number of public meetings, including but not limited to public workgroup sessions on sport and commercial fishing, Lake Malone, deer and elk management, and small game habitat and restoration. During the first half of FY 2011, KDFWR and the Commission launched nine (9) different Town Hall Meetings throughout the Commonwealth. More than 230 people attended the first meeting on November 29th and the department eventually had the opportunity to meet and discuss fish and wildlife issues with approximately one thousand attendees after all meetings had taken place. Commission members representing the district and leaders of the agency attended these town halls.</p>	<p>In March of this year, the Department held a public meeting to discuss fishery management options for largemouth bass and bluegill in 158-acre Beaver Lake in Anderson County.</p>
<p>4.1.a. To develop a Statewide Neighborhood Fisheries Program.</p>	<p>The first two years of our strategic plan was represented by efforts in marketing and researching the opportunity for a statewide neighborhood fisheries program, which was designed to offer better fishing opportunities closer to cities. In FY 2010, the Department was able to dramatically grow our Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) program from 6 to 29 lakes, which included at least one FINS lake in each Commission district.</p>	<p>In FY 2011, the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) program enters its fifth year with a record of 34 lakes in 21 counties scheduled to be stocked with catfish and rainbow trout. This year, five lakes in central and northern Kentucky have been added to the program: Camp Ernst Lake in Boone County; Millennium Park Pond in Boyle County; Whitehall Park Lake in Madison County; and Lake Carlson and Lake Dickerson on the Ft. Knox Military Reservation in Meade County.</p>